

REMARKS

The Office Action dated 15 December 2006 has been reviewed, and the comments of the Patent Office considered. Claims 9-13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 1 was previously amended, and claims 2-8 remain as originally filed. Claims 1-8 are respectfully submitted for reconsideration by the Examiner.

The Examiner is thanked for the allowance of claims 1-8.

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,564,046 to Lungu, and claims 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,630,403 to Van Kempen et al. ("Van Kempen") in view of Lungu. These rejections are respectfully traversed inasmuch as claims 9-11 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

There being no other rejections, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration of this Application and the prompt allowance of claims 1-8.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this reply, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution of the application.

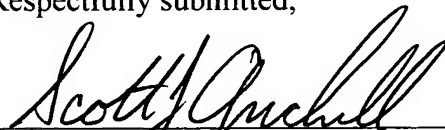
EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 08-1641. **This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).**

Date:

10 March 2006

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Respectfully submitted,



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